

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 12898 081339Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AID-05 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02
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R 081323Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0472
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12898

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PINT, PDEV, ET, GW, SO
SUBJECT: FRG SUSPENDS ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIAN POCE

REFS: (A) BONN 12294, (B) BONN12787

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FRG HAS SUSPENDED FURTHER DELIVERIES
OF POLICE EQUIPMENT TO ETHIOPIA. END SUMMARY

1. ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO BONN DR. HAILE GABRIEL
DAGNE WAS CALLED TO THE FONOFF AUGUST 3 AND INFORMED
THAT DELIVERIES OF FRG EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE TO
ETHIOPIAN POLICE WAS BEING TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED.
FONOFF (MUELLER) ASSURED DAGNE THAT SUSPENSION
DID NOT INDICATE ANY FRG INTENT TO DOWNGRADE BILATERAL
RELATIONS. RATHER, THE HALT WAS NECESSARY TO ENSURE
THAT EQUIPMENT PROVIDED WAS NOT BEING DIVERTED TO THE
MILITARY (WHICH WOULD CONTRAVENE FRG POLICY AGAINST
PROVIDING MILITARY AID TO "AREAS OF TENSION.")

2. AS REPORTED REF A, FRG FONOFF HAD BEEN UNDER FIRE
FOR ITS POLICE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR ETHIOPIA. TWO
YEAR FRG COMMITMENT (1976-78) WAS TO BE DM 5 MILLION,
BUT ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, MOST OF THE MATERIAL
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TO BE PROVIDED UNDER THIS PROGRAM HAS ALREADY BEEN
DELIVERED. FRG BUNDESWEHR ADVISERS WILL REMAIN IN
ETHIOPIA FOR THE TIME BEING.

3. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF THE CUTOFF TO ETHIOPIA, THE
FRG IS GOING AHEAD WITH ITS POLICE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
TO SOMALIA (REF B). (SOME FONOFF OFFICIALS HAD

EXPECTED THAT SUSPENSION OF ETHIOPIA PROGRAM WOULD
FORCE A SIMILAR SUSPENSION OF AID TO SOMALIA.) BY
CUTTING OFF ONE AND NOT THE OTHER, THE FRG
HAS TILTED TOWARD SOMALIA. THE ASSETS THE FRG HAS TO
SPEND IN THE HORN ARE FEW, ESPECIALLY GIVEN ITS SELF-
IMPOSED PROHIBITION ON AID TO AREAS OF TENSION, BUT
THOSE ASSETS IT HAS WILL BE USED TO PROMOTE SOMALIA'S
RE-ORIENTATION. THE FRG DOES, HOWEVER, HOPE TO
RETAIN SOME INFLUENCE IN ADDIS, WHICH MAY EXPLAIN WHY IT
IS LEAVING ITS ADVISERS IN PLACE, AND WHY IT CAREFULLY
EXPLAINED THE AID CUTOFF TO THE ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR
HERE.
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